

CD 1

First Place Winner

Tess Borsechnik, Kelly Lane School

The Elephant's Trunk

I think that if I were to direct tourists to an amazing place to visit I would show them The Elephant's Trunk flea market in New Milford, Connecticut. The Elephant's trunk is a flea market where people go to sell some things they don't want. The Elephant's trunk really brings to life the old saying "One mans trash is another mans treasure". The flea market is held every year, every Sunday from April 1st until December 16th. All different kinds of people go there with all different likings and almost always come out dragging silly little treasures. I myself prefer small, fragile dolls. Some with porcelain faces are to expensive for me to afford. Most people like the Elephant's Trunk for its many unique stands with all the fun things you can buy and I agree. They also sell delicious Italian ices.

The Elephant's Trunk is a magical place were many stories are born. I, however, have my own story' a story full of adventure and wonder and it begins at the Elephant's Trunk one sunny Sunday in the beginning of April.

"Come get it!" cried a salesman gesturing toward a plate with salami on it. Across the aisle a man was shouting to be heard over his opponent's loud alluring calls. "Why hello there miss" he called, noticing me as I gazed at something on his top shelf. "You look like the kind of girl who would like a nice doll" I shook my head, making my parents stare at me in amazement- I would usually never pass up a chance to get a doll. "No thank's" I shook my head "but..." I continued "...I would like that". The man followed the direction I was pointing in and then he smiled. "So" he winked "you like to draw, eh?" Indeed this was true as I was pointing towards a beautiful tattered drawing book, very intrigued.

After buying my prized book I decided that I would examine it while my parents went to look at teapots and my big brother looked at small carved dragons. I sat down on a rock with the Italian ice I had just bought and began to flip through the old pages. Suddenly the page I had turned to was covered completely with a magnificent picture of a young, gorgeous, little fairy who looked about my age! I was so engulfed in the beautiful little drawing that I didn't notice I was leaning forward as if pulled by an unseen force, until "ahhhhh!" I screamed as I fell through a wormhole and amazingly watching my body shrink until it was the size of a fairy!

"Well get up, you might as well now that you're here" came a little voice. "Ok," I stammered getting to my feet. I looked around, but saw no one. "Hello up here." There it was, that friendly little voice again. I looked up and saw the fairy from the drawing floating above me and waving, her wings glistening behind her. "What the... how'd you get up there?!?" I fumbled for what to say. "I flew," she shrugged. "You can to!" I looked behind me and sure enough, a pair of beautiful wings hung gracefully behind my back. "But, I... I don't understand, what's going on here?...who are you?... do you know how I

can get home?!?” I moaned. The little fairy jumped (or rather flew) backwards. “Oh don’t worry I’m fine, thank’s for asking after you fell on top me” she grumbled. “Uh...er right sorry about that I’m ...er I’m just nervous, no offence” I winced. “Mmm...oh what the heck none **really** taken, I guess,” she mumbled, offering her hand –as she floated back to earth- which I took. “Oh by the way, I’m Tia, what’s your name?” she smiled at me. “I’m Tess” I murmured returning the smile shyly. “So you wanna get home do you?!?” she asked. I nodded my head vigorously. “Well I know just how to get there, c’mon!”

“Are...huh... we ...huh... there... huh... yet?!?” I moaned as we flew along. “ Well we’re not any closer than the last time you asked me,... **five seconds ago!**” she shouted. After we had been flying for about an hour she stopped. “There it is” she whispered. I looked up and saw what looked like a giant whirlpool. “I came from up there to,” she said suddenly. I’ve just never been brave enough to go back!” I looked at her and smiled. “ would you be brave enough with me? “ I asked. She nodded we stepped forward, held our noses and jumped. The next thing I knew, I was sitting on the bench again and there sitting beside me was the familiar face of Tia.. I smiled. So it was all back to normal then? And from then on, Tia and I lived extraordinary lives throughout which our friendship never faltered.

Is this story true, you may ask... well not exactly, but at the Elephant’s Trunk, anything is possible. So if you want to have your own adventure, go to the Elephant’s Trunk (or go there if you just like to buy things like: furniture, antiques, dolls, jewelry, or fun little trinkets!) And enjoy!

CD 2

First Place Winner

Frank Fusco, The Enfield Montessori School

The Beach at Hammonasset

If I were to show an interesting place in Connecticut to a visitor here, it would be the Hammonasset beach. The beach has excellent waves, shells you can collect, and a phenomenal view.

There are a few problems at the beach, like jellyfish, sunburns, sand crabs, and sometimes it's crowded with people. The beach is still fun though. Jellyfish rarely come. If you put suntan lotion on then you will not get a sunburn. If you look where you step, you will have no trouble with sand crabs. And if you choose the right place on the beach, you might find a less crowded spot.

My favorite thing to do at the beach is to swim. The water always feels cold when I get in first, but it still feels good because I always get hot at the beach. I love to jump into the waves with my twin brother, Mark and make big splashes.

The beach is always fun to go with other people and that is why it would be fun to show it to visitors to Connecticut. It would be great. Come join me in the summer at the Hammonasset beach!

CD 3

First Place Winner

Tenisha Harper, St. Brendan School

A Wonderful Place To Be

I would like to tell you about the outstanding Knights of Columbus Museum in New Haven. I would like to say how terrific this Museum is: they always give you fantastic service and always make sure you're happy, and are very caring about you when you're learning things. The people who come to the Museum think that education about artists who created paintings, art, drawing, and even writing different types of stories is important because it is great to learn new things. Parents feel great when their kids are learning things that they themselves did not know. The Museum's faculty has to be happy watching the kids learn. When I went there in second and third grade, they were so happy because I learned about lots of things. For example, I learned about the ship that had crashed from an iceberg called the Titanic. Then my class and I went on one floor where we created our own art.

The faculty teaches lots of things; that is why people love coming to the Museum. The faculty seems to always love the children who come here, and they always treat us like we're kings and queens when you come there. They did a lot of things for example; they help people when there on a cane or a wheel chair. They also care about things that are important; they make sure that you and your baby have a quiet time. Everybody has lots of fun because when I was also in third grade we had to have a field trip here and at the end we had hot chocolate and cookies!

They're always neat, and they make sure everything goes right. When there were new things I begged my mom to bring me there. So when we went there we finally heard when my school told us that we were in a contest of a Best Christmas Tree and we found out when it was over that we won! In first place! We have made a lot of work and shown teamwork and responsibilities. The parking lot has a court yard that is amazing to see. It has fountains that has steps and water that runs down them. It has lots of bamboo that I can't even count!

They have a part of the building where they talk about all these amazing art or stories that people wrote. One of its pieces is like a tree with four people in it. The second one had animals playing poker, but I don't really know how it is because I forgot. The people who come there always know how the faculty feels about learning or figuring out how they learn so many things that tell us how great they feel about working here or about learning so many things. The Knights of Columbus Museum makes me happy because I like to learn about cultures and about the time people who made things that was so brilliant. I think that the person who made the museum should thank him- or herself for doing a great thing for Connecticut/New Haven. I also know that whenever you create things you can think about how you or the people who did things. You could just say that I can do anything just like the arts, paintings, writing stories, and creations that all of the people did.

So remember you can do lots of things even if you're young, or older. You can still do what you know or what you can do. I hope when I grow up I would make something really creative to make my family proud because I know that the people who did things make their family proud. So come to the Knights of Columbus Museum and find out more information about all of the brilliant people who did great things.

CD 4

First Place Winner

Christine M. Byrne, Marvin Elementary School

“The Maritime Aquarium”

Have you ever been bored on a cold, rainy day? Did you ever want to go see a movie, but nothing good was playing? Than I’m sure the Maritime Aquarium and Imax Theater in Norwalk, Connecticut is for you!

The Imax theater is six stories high, and always has interesting stories about the sea and life that inhabits it playing. Nine out of ten kids like to visit the Imax Theater better than anywhere else. Patrick Byrne says, “The Maritime Aquarium Imax Theater always has what I like!” It always has movie that are wonderful, non-fictional, and have amazing, unusual facts.

The Maritime Aquarium always has different exhibits of wonderful animals. My three favorite exhibits are: the seals, the sharks, and the sting rays. The seals, are big whale-like creatures, with big fins and, inside of them they have blubber. Seals are usually gray or brown. At certain times of the day, you can watch professionals feed the seals! It’s amazing to watch (they feed them fish). Sharks are big, scary, gray, creatures. Sharks are known to be harsh, scary creatures who smell blood from far away, and get ready to eat. Sharks dash off for the blood because there might be a hurt fish there, that they could eat. Sting rays are small creatures, who have long tails you might want to stay away from. Hopefully, you will never encounter a sting ray, that’s not behind glass. Although, sting rays are usually nice creatures, you probably don’t want to go near one.

Finally, at the Maritime Aquarium, you have to go see the gift shop! It’s my personal favorite! Have you ever gone to this gift shop? It’s the best gift shop in the whole world! Even my dog has a fiesta when we bring her back a seashell shaped squeaky toy! The gift shop has necklaces, minerals/rocks, dolls, books, and lots, lots more! Two out of three kids buy something at this fabulous gift shop.

So remember, if you ever are visiting fabulous Norwalk, Connecticut go to the Maritime Aquarium, so you can see: the sharks, the sting rays, the seals, the Imax Theater, the gift shop, and lots more.

CD 5

First Place Winner

Abigail Grace Winters, Hawley School

CCMC is Great

Connecticut Children's Medical Center (CCMC) is the best place in Connecticut. I know it is because I have spent a lot of time there recently. It is different from all other hospitals.

Unlike most hospitals, it is very colorful. The front of the building has metal figures in the grass. They all have big, bright, bold colors. The nurses are colorful too. They always have splashes of color in their outfits. Even the doctors are colorful. All the men doctors wear bright ties and colorful shirts. It isn't a dull hospital. It makes you feel cheery and bright. When you walk into the building you find yourself smiling and you can feel the happiness rise in yourself.

It is also great because all of the nurses are fun and helpful. In the clinic, the nurses have silly-string fights and squirt water out of syringes for water fights. They do everything they can to help the children have fun. All of their work pays off. They keep all the kids smiling or at least feeling happy.

Upstairs on levels, six, seven, and eight where you stay overnight if you need treatment, there are lots of volunteers. They do arts and crafts, make music with you, help you relax, and on Thursdays they even bring in puppies!

A lady comes on Tuesdays and she tells you how to make a doll. The dolls first start out as a body like a pillow. You can decorate it anyway you want to! On Thursdays when the dogs come in you could sit and pet them for hours. Everyday in the playroom at about noon there is a craft. The crafts are always good and even if you don't do the craft it's still fun to talk to the craft ladies.

CCMC is also phenomenal because of the doctors. They are wonderful because they do important things in fun ways. Sometimes when they listen to your heart they put the stethoscope to your head and guess what you are thinking. Of course, they never guess right but it's entertaining. They also join in the silly-string and water fights. They can have fun with you while you have fun with them.

Another great thing about CCMC is making friends. When the moms or dads meet each other, they start to talk. They become friends and get together. Soon they want to get the kids together and the kids make friends too. It is a great place to find friends because the hospital only treats children. Sometimes nurses will introduce other people to you, like Matt. Matt is a boy who had the same kind of cancer as me. He was just finishing up treatment as I met him. It was great to know him because if I was scared I could talk to him. Another friend I met was Shyanne. She was a four year-old little girl who was deaf. She loved to play with me and talk to me. She used sign language so it was extremely fun to talk to her.

Once my mom found a lady who was having trouble dealing with her daughter's cancer. My mom would talk to her and help her feel better while I got to play with her cute two year-old daughter, Sky. All the friends at CCMC make you forget about your sickness and feel happy instead of lost with no one to talk to.

The best reason why CCMC is a great hospital is because they make children better. When it's almost time to give up hope they still try. They never stop. I think it's hard for them to keep going but they think there is always a way. I believe in them and it's not hard for others to believe too. They make the children happy which I think helps make them better. It makes the parents happy to see their children happy while going through life threatening sicknesses. The nurses and doctors give each patient a great amount of attention and make sure they feel all right. They always find a way to make the children feel and get better. All the nurses and doctors smile at you which makes you smile back.

That is why I think CCMC is the best place in Connecticut!

